THE YORK STATE STORY

By Mary E. Cunningham

"Plant potatoes in the dark of the moon," they say, or your potato plants will go to vine. "Peel the potato thick, plant the peelings, eat the center," you will have a good crop. Memorial Day is a good day to plant potatoes, some say, but another saying goes, "Plant in April, hoe in May, eat in June."

Have you heard about the farmer who planted onions with his potatoes? The field was on a hill. In dry season the water drained off. One winter the shrewd farmer figured out a plan. Next summer he planted first a hill of onions, then a hill of potatoes, a hill of onions, then a hill of potatoes. The onions got in the potatoes' eyes and made them water so much the land had just enough moisture. The farmer had a bumper crop.

All part of the lore and legend that has grown up about the humble potato, that universal crop, that nutritious food for man and beast, that single food that can be eaten three times a day, 365 days a year—and many so eat it. They will be planting the potato all over the fields of York State, first state in potato growing in the forty-eight, any one of these days now. A few weeks and its white blossoms will be crowning the green vines.

Sir Walter Raleigh was the one who found the potato in the new world, some say. Others give the credit to Sir Francis Drake. At any rate, the potato is a one hundred per cent American plant, everyone knows.

Next to America, of course, the tater claims Ireland as its second home. The "Irish potato," they used to call it. Maybe it was Sir Walter, maybe Sir Francis who brought the potato home to Ireland. For decades it was a luxury for rich men's gardens, but little by little it grew to be the commonest, cheapest, most nutritious food for the Irish.

German princes saw the possibilities of the potato for their hungry subjects. Frederick William, the Great Elector, planted a plot of them in his ornamental gardens in Berlin. Parmentier, French scientist and economist, scratched his head for ways to make the potato popular in France, wrote a book on the succulent tuber. He sent a tub of potato plants to Louis XVI who wore their flowers in his buttonhole. Louis' Queen Marie Antoinette attended a ball with a wreath of potato blossoms in her hair.

Parmentier persuaded the King to let him use one hundred acres of land in the parks of Paris to grow potatoes. During the day the spuds were guarded by soldiers, to make the people think the crop exceedingly valuable, but at night the guards were withdrawn. Parmentier and Louis must have chuckled to see the little figures sneak in to steal the tubers, exactly what they had planned.

The French scientist gave a dinner for Benjamin Franklin at which potatoes, served in a variety of ways, were the only food. It's nice to remember that even today the French keep the potato blooming on the grave of Parmentier.

Then came the 1800's and the fearful potato blight. Year after year the crop was ruined. By that time three-fourths of the people of Ireland subsisted on potatoes. During the first twenty years of the blight more than a million Irish died of starvation. In the twenty years that followed as many more imigrated to America. They came to York State mostly, to dig the Erie Canal, to build New York railroads.

Not in Ireland alone did the potato blight ravage. It swept over the fields of North America. Scientists were unaware of bacteria then, could not sift out the cause.

Hero of the day was a York Stater, a Utica man, Chauncey E. Goodrich, Congregational minister. His idea was simple, like so many great ideas. That is, simple once it had occurred to Goodrich. The potato had originated in South America, he reasoned. Why not send back to South America, get enough seed for a new start, begin potato culture all over again?

From South America Goodrich obtained a new variety called the Rough Purple Chile. From this start, in 1853, he produced the Garnet Chile, in turn in 1861 the Early Rose. And from these two varieties, Garnet Chile and Early Rose, all the two hundred and more varieties of the potato that flourish in the spring fields of the United States have grown.

Sir Walter Raleigh, a German emperor, Marie Antoinette, a Congregational minister from Utica—all bound together by their interest in the lowly spud.

Schoharie County Journal
Cobleskill, April 24, 1951

Chauncey E. Goodrich, Class 1825

CLASS OF 1825 CHAUNCEY E. GOODRICH

Margaret, daughter of William G. Tracy, of Whitesboro, N. Y., and a sister of William Tracy (Union 1824) married Rev. Chauncey E. Goodrich, faithful divine, and for many years worthy resident of Utica. She died in 1862.

Whitesboro's Golden Age p. 97
Trans. Oneida Hist. Society for 1881-1884

UTICA N. Y. PRESS
FEBRUARY 7, 1935

1825

A Utican's Contribution to 'Saga of the Potato'

The Reader's Digest for February contains an interesting article on "The Saga of the Potato," condensed from the American Mercury, by Norman Taylor, botanical editor of Webster's New International Dictionary, in which mention is made of the fact that "Rev. Chancey E. Goodrich of Utica, N. Y., imported from the Andes the seeds of several varieties. From this fresh stock, after a few cross-pollinations, he produced a variety in 1853 that he called the Garnet Chili, from which was later derived the Early Rose, a variety still widely grown today."

In Dr. M. M. Bagg's Memorial History of Utica the facts are recorded that Rev. Chauncey Enoch Goodrich was born in a suburb of Troy, September 19, 1801, was graduated from Union College and Princeton Seminary, spent nearly two years in Oneida Institute, and was set over a church. Five successive pastorates in different parts of Central New York he filled before he gave up the charge of a parish and came to Utica. Here he acted for 19 years as chaplain of the State Hospital.

This did not, however, engage his whole attention; he was occupied besides in trial methods of vegetable and fruit raising, and in attempts to acclimate the growth of milder regions. Many of these attempts, carefully conducted and with the utmost nicety of science, were successful.

When the potato disease first threatened that priceless crop, he addressed himself to its cure. For 16 years he patiently pursued his experiments and investigations. He perfected several varieties, among them the Garnet Chili and had he chosen to make money out of it, he might have accumulated wealth. His motive, however, was philanthropic, not necessary. His death occurred May 11, 1864. His wife was a daughter of William T. Tracy, of Whitesboro.

So far as can be learned, Rev. Chauncey E. Goodrich was not related to Rev. A. B. Goodrich, D. D., the beloved rector of Calvary Episcopal Church from 1859 until his death December 16, 1896.

U. A. M. 1825 Apr. 1935

The Reader's Digest for February contains an article on "The Saga of the Potato," in which mention is made of the fact that "Rev. CHANCEY E. GOODRICH of Utica, N. Y., imported from the Andes the seeds of several varieties. From this fresh stock, after a few cross-pollinations, he produced a variety in 1853 that he called the Garnet Chili, from which was later derived the Early Rose, a variety still widely grown today."

Rev. CHAUNCY E. GOODRICH, 1825, of Troy, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.
Philomathean Catalogue 1830 (Died: 1864)

CLASS OF 1825

CHAUNCEY ENOCH GOODRICH

Son of Dr. Enoch Goodrich

He was born near Troy, N. Y., September 19,1801.
He graduated at Union College in 1825, and at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1828.
He held pastorates in Salisbury, Herkimer Co., in Butternuts and Fly Creek, Otsego Co., and again in Herkimer County, at Winfield. Removing to Utica with broken health in 1841, he became a market gardener; for sixteen years he devoted himself to the improvement of the potato, renewing the seed with tubers obtained from Chili, and thus producing several new and valuable varieties; he furnished different agricultural journals as many as 130 papers on various topics.
For the last nineteen years of his life he acted also as chaplain of the New York State Lunatic Asylum.
His death took place May 11, 1864

American Biographical Notes p. 167
Franklin B. Hough
Joel Munsell
Albany 1875.

CLASS OF 1825 CHAUNCEY E. GOODRICH

Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Gilbertsville, Otsego Co., N. Y., from 1832 to 1834, when he resugned to become the chaplain of the insane asylum at Utica.

History of Otsego Co.,N.Y. p. 115 Hurd 1878.

X 125 *Goodrich, Chauncey Enoch—b. East Troy (Brunswick), N. Y., Sept. 19, 1801; U. C., 1825; (3 grad.); tea. Oneida Inst., Whitesboro, N. Y., '28-30; ord. Pby. Oneida, July 1, '30; p. Salisbury, N. Y., '30-32; s. s. Butternuts, '32-34; p. Oak's Creek and Fly Creek, '35-37; p. Cong. ch. Winfield, '37-39; p. Holland Patent, '39-41; chap. Ins. Asyl. Utica, '45-63; d. Utica, N. Y., May 11, 1864.
Princeton Theol. Cat. 1894.
Class 1825

CHAUNCEY E. GOODRICH, '25

Was born September 19, 1801, in what at that time was the eastern part of Troy, Renssalear County, N. Y., now called Brunswick.

He was the youngest son of Dr. Enoch Goodrich and Rebecca Gale. His ancestor, William Goodrich, came from Great Britain to this county with an uncle and brother, and settled in Weathersfild, Conn., about 1647. William's youngest child was David, and one of the youngest of David's seventeen children was Benjamin, who married Hannah Olmsted, of the same family with the late Professor Olmsted of Yale College.

Five of the children of this marriage were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, and Enoch, the youngest, who was the twelfth son and fourteenth child, became a physician. He was born in 1764. He studied medicine in Stanford, Dutchess County, N. Y., where he married Rebecca Gale. They subsequently removed to Troy, where the subject of this sketch was born, one of the youngest of nine children.

Dr. Enoch Goodrich moved, in the early part of 1806, to Elbridge, Onondaga County, which was then part of the town of Camillus. The country was bur partially settled, and was very sickly. The family were all attacked by the diseases incident to new countries, and his wife died during the first year, and the next year his own death left his children orphans.

When not quite six years old, young Chauncey found a home with his uncle by marriage, Colonel Nathan Beckwith, of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, where he lived till the age of fourteen. His constitution, originally delicate, and shattered by disease contracted in the western home, and by the hardships endured there, made him an object of tender solicitude with his kind uncle and aunt, and turned his thoughts, at an early age, from the hard work of the farm to the study of medicine. But when he was just thirteen his hopes were blasted by the death of his eldest brother, Henry, who had succeeded his father in the practice of medicine, having (almost unaided) studied several languages and various branches of science. Soon after this, commenced the struggle of life.

In 1815, leaving his uncle, he went to his relatives in Brunswick, and began to labor in a tannery there, working so hard as to retard his growth and injure his health.

In 1817, he made a profession of religion in the church under the pastoral care of Rev. John Younglove, of Brunswick. After this his time was divided between work, study, and teaching school.

In 1820, he began a course of classical study with a view to the ministry, commencing with Mr. Reuben Farnham of Elbridge, going on with his uncle, Rev. George W. Gale, of Adams, Jefferson County, and finishing at Kansingburgh Academy. He entered the junior class at Union College, Schenectady, in 1823.

His small patrimoney (of less than three hundred dollars) being now spent, he was glad to avail himself of some assistance rendered to him by the Presbytery of Troy, (under whose care he placed himself,) by the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Troy, and by numerous kind friends.

During all his course of study he practiced the most rigid economy, usually

boarding himself, and often receiving with thankfulness a loaf of bread, or some orther article of food.

He graduated in 1825, having taken a good standing in his class. While in college he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Philomathean Societies. In 1825 he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, N. J.

There was a peculiarity in his eyesight which had long been a source of perplexity and annoyance, distorting every object, and rendering the study of Greek and Hebrew very difficult.

"After leaving college, and on his way to Princeton. (writes R. G.-----, of Lenox, Massachusetts, in the "Country Gentleman," of July 7, 1864,) in going down the Bay of New York he found he could readily distinguish the transverse spars of the shipping, but could not the vertical ones. A gentleman who wore concave glasses was present, and upon borrowing them he could see the masts, but the yards became indistinct. He concluded that the lenses of his eyes were not spherical, but spherodical, the curvature of the horizontal section being right, and of the vertical too great; and that a lens ground upon a cylinder of a curvature sufficient to overcome the excessive curvature of the vertical section of his eyes would afford him relief." While at Princeton, he invented, for this imperfection, a plano-concave cylindrical lens, and perfected it through the kindness of Messrs. John McAllister & Son, of Philadelphia, who had glasses ground for him in France. These same glasses he used thirty-six years, until his death. He wrote to Professor Silliman about his peculiar vision, and I think some notice of it was put in the American Journal of Science for 1828.

While at the Seminary he continued to receive aid from the Presbytery of Troy, and was also assisted by the education fund of the Institution. He graduated in 1828.

Among his fellow-students at Princeton, were Nicholas Murray, David H. Riddle, Cyrus Mason, Erskine Mason, William S. Plumer, J. Holmes Agnew, George W. Bethune, John C. Young, of Kentucky, PeterjJ Gulick, missionary to the Sandwich Islands, George B. Whiting, missionary to Syria, and other missionaries. His own thoughts were turned to the foreign field, and he offered his services to the American Board, but his lack of health obliged him to relinquish all thoughts of such employment.

He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Troy in the autumn of 1828, and went immediately to teach in the Oneida Institute, a manual labor school at Whitesboro', N. Y., under the charge of his uncle, Rev. George W. Gale, afterwards the founder of Knox College, Galesburg, Ill. While there he preached often at New York Mills. In 1830 he was ordained by Oneida Presbytery and settled as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, Herkimer County, where he had been preaching several months. The salary was four hundred dollars of which one was given by the "Home Missionary Society."

In May, 1830, he married Mar aret Tracy, daughter of William Gedney Tracy, of Whitesboro', N. Y.

For twelve years he was pastor, successively, in Salisbury, Herkimer County; Butternuts and Fly Creek, Otsego County; Winfield, Herkimer County; and Holland Paten, Oneida County. During these twelve years he had only the small salary of

four or five hundred dollars a year upon which to support his family.

Though suffering from constant ill health, his professional journal shows that he missed preaching only two or three Sabbaths.

Besides preaching and performing the laborious duties of a country minister, he prosecuted various literary labors, (never quite completed however,) read and studied much, lectured to his people on chemistry and other sciences, and kept up his knowledge of agriculture by tilling the ground with his own hands.

The period of his pastoral duties was a time of excitement. The whole country was in a state of ferment. Temperance, anti-slavery, social reform, "new measures" with regard to revivals, &c., where dividing churches and arraying Christians against each other, while the controversy between the two parties in the Presbyterian Church, resulting in the division, was at its height. All these things made the relation between pastor and people exceedingly precarious.

In these controversies he took a decided stand on the side of progress and reform, while the extravagant zeal of some with whom he was at first associated soon left him far behind, and he suffered considerable persecution from many others who thought he was going too far.

He waa always active in establishing Sunday-schools, Bible-classes, temperance and missionary societies.

In 1841 his labors as a pastor terminated. Soon after he removed to Utica, N. Y., and in 1843 started a market garden. Not content with the ordinary routine of sowing and reaping, he tried various experiments in raising peaches, grapes, sweet potatoes, and other tender fruits and tropical plants, which had never flourished in the cold winters and changeful summers of Oneida County.

Most of his plans proved unsuccessful or too expensive, but he gained many premiums from agricultural societies, and laid up a fund of useful knowledge, which was of great service to him in after years.

The accurate habit of observation, and the close research which had hitherto marked his character, led him to study attentively the habits of plants, and the effect of climate and cultivation upon them; and when the potato began to fail, he soon discovered what he thought to be the true cause and the true remedy.

Relinquishing the cultivation of most other vegetables, he now devoted himself with untiring assiduity, to the restoration of this valuable plant.

Through his brother-in-law, Mr. Henry Tracy, he procured a few potatoes from Chili, South America, at an expense of two hundred dollars, and from these he obtained seed, and commenced experiments, not only for the renewal of the potato from the seed, but to infuse new vigor into the plant by seed renewal from tubers grown in South America, where it is indignous. For ling years he experimented, holding the pen in one hand, and the hoe in the other, noting down on the field the most minute peculiarities of each individual plant, and all the circumstances of cultivation, soil and weather, which could influence its growth. He did not, however, give up the duties of his profession, but became Chaplain of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, a position which he held for about nineteen years. In this , as in all other positions, he discharged his duties conscientiously and acceptably, and in his death the institution and the public have lost

a valuable servant.

His winters were spent in arranging the facts learned during the summer into various essays and shorter articles. His communications to the "Country Gentleman", and other agricultural papers, to the "Patent Office Reports," and the "Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society" are known to all who read those publications, and the new varieties of potatoes which he introduced, attest the practical value of his labors.

During all this period, he was not idle in the literature of his profession. He not only kept himself well posted, but prepared a work on Pastoral Theology, the manuscript of which has been placed in the hands of one of his ministerial friends for publication.

Constantly increasing illness led him to give up, one after another, the pleasures and active employments of life, and at last obliged him to decid on committing the further progress of his experiments to other hands.

He had already given some new varieties to his friend Charles W. Gleason, Esq., of Holden, Mass., for experimental test before their introdution to the public. He subsequently transferred 130 younger varieties to another friend, D. S. Heffron, Esq., of Utica, and to the writer, 42, now in the fifth year of successful cultivation. Among th latter, the early Goodrich, the Calico, the Gleason, and the Harison, are most promising, while all were free from rot last year.

However, during the early part of the winter of 1864, feeling his strength failing, and advised by his physician that he could not long survive the steady progress of long disease, he devoted himself to the preparation of two valuable papers on the culture and disease of the potato, embodying all the results of his long experience and slose observation, which he completed a few days before his death, which occurred May 11, 1864.

His various communications to the several agricultural papers from the year 1848 to the day of his death, amount to one hundred and thirty, as far as the writer has been able to trace them. He has also left a large amount of unfinished work, mainly in notes, and observations on vegetable physiology and pathology, the result of careful and intelligent study, which it is to be regretted he was not spared to complete; and which, it is to be hoped will fall into the hands of some one with the ability and diposition to render them available to the world. Hisfailing health alone prevented his completing a work on vegetable pathology, for which he had ample materials, and a subject to which he had long given great attention, and of which he had frequently conversed with the writer.

Mr. Goodrich, as has been stated, was for many years, a man of feeble health. He was, however, a constant worker, always giving to physical and intellectual labor the total of his strenth. He rarely went from home, gave himself no recreation, and never attended places of amusement. He was studious scholar, and an earnest, practical, Christian man, and a benefactor of his race in an eminent sense of the wrod. In all his labors he was unselfish and devoted to the single thought of permanently benefiting mankind. His investigations and experiments on the diseases of the potato, and its renewal, were prosecuted for sixteen years,

with the enthusiasm of a true lover of science, and with the patient perseverance characteristic of a scholar, and with the sole object of preserving this invaluable esculent to the world. During all this period, his annual expenses in cultivation, considerably exceeded the returns from his sales. The deficits were made good by the premiums awarded him by the State Agricultural Society, from time to time, and when he closed hiw work, a careful examination of his accounts showed a balance of about fifty dollars as his pecuniary reward. Some of the members of the New York State Agricultural Society, hearing for the first time of his straitened circumstances, and the unremunerative character of his successful efforts to advance the cause of agriculture, proposed at the annual meeting in February, 1864, a memorial; and subscriptions were taken up amounting to the sum of seven hundred dollars.

This thoughtful and generous act smoothed the latter hours of Mr. Goodrich and afforded him all the necessary pecuniary support, during the short remnant of his life.

He left four daughters, young ladies dependent on their own exertions. His friend, Mr. R. G---, of Lenox, Mass., in a brief obituary in the "Country Gentleman", justly remarks:-

"As the introducer of the "Garnet Chili" adn other new vaieties of potatoes, Mr. Goodrich deserves to be well remembered by his countrymen, and his decease is a national loss.

"His tastes were scientific, and he was particularly fond of the natural sciences; a most careful observer of facts, and exceedingly methodical in preserving a record of them, and arranging them with a view to future comparison and the lessons to be drawn from them. He kept most full and careful records of the weather and the daily appearance of growing plants, so as to be able to trace the influence of the temperature and atmospheric changes upon them. When the potato disease first manifested itself his at ention was aroused to find out its cause and the proper remedy. He commenced a most minute examination of the growth of the potato plant under differnt circumstances, and the phenomena consequent upon it under different degrees of temperature and of dryness of the atmosphere and changes from one condition to another of the weather. A series of these observations extended through a period of two or three years, led to the belief that the plant by lohg cultivation under conditions not natural to it where it was indigenous, had become enfeebled and incapable of resisting atmospheric changes, which would not affect a plant newly taken from its habitat. He, therefore, concluded that seed obtained from tubers grown upon the elevated plains of South America, where the potato originated, might be expected to produce new varieties of greater vigor to supply the place of those failing. A barrel of potatoes raised in Chili, obtained at Panama and brought across the Isthmus at an expense of some two hundred dollars, just before the railroad was built there, enabled him to commence the series of experiments which were continued up to his death. His general plan, which has been given to the public in all its details in his printed circulars and Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society, was to raise plants from the seed obtained from the ball, plant the tubers produced from it, observe their growth, keeping a careful record of the appearance of each, rejecting every feeble or unhealthy or otherwise unpromising plant--gather the tubers in the fall, and if found of indifferent quality, discard them and preserve only such as indicated valua-

ble qualities. In addition to the plants raised from the seed of the original Chili potatoes, he saved seeds of their progeny, and prusued the same system with their product. Frequently he produced tubers which, for three or four years, would be very promising, and then develop some feature which rendered them, in his opinion, unworthy of cultivation. He, therefore, came to regard no potato to a safe one to give to the public until at least five years from the seed. The Garnet Chili was the only one of fifteen hundred seedlings of the year it was produced.

"The Calico, a new variety, which he was prepared to give to the public this year--a seedling of the second generation from the original Chili, was the only one of two hundred raised with it that he had not discarded.

"His interest in the enterprise he had inaugurated ceased only with his death. His leading object was to perform his duty as a minister of religion, and no temptation would induce him to forsake that; but he was gratified that through his instrumentality a new and healthy variety of the potato had been given to the country, and he fully appreciated its importance.

"Several of Mr. Goodrich's papers on the potato disease, and the proper course to be pursued in view of it, have been published in the Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society and of the Smithsonian Institute. They all exhibit careful, minute examination and philosophical conclusions. His mind was active and original, and he was a very ready and accurate writer. His scientific tendendies may be illustrated by an incident in his early history. From boyhood he had a defect in his vision, not arising from any weakness of his eyes, and which neither convex nor concave spectacles would relieve. After leaving college, and on his way to Princeton, in going down the Bay of New York, he found that he could readily distinguish the transverse spars of the shipping, but could not the vertical ones. (The incident here referred to is given in another part of this narrative.)

"Shortly before his death, in view of the probability that he should not be able to continue his experiments, he placed his memorandum in the hands of his friend, D. S. Heffron, Esq., of Utica, who had become fully acquainted with his views. The sums he received from the sale of potatoes originated by him, never amounted to a compensation for the money and care expended in his experiments. The testimonial of seven hundred dollars received from the New York State Agricultural Society, more than equalled all he had ever received beyond his actual expenditures. Had his object been simply to make money, with a little business tact his Garnet Chili might have produced him a fortune. It was remarked at a meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society, that already at least three million dollars had been saved by the introduction of the Garnet Chili potato.

"Mr. Goodrich left no property, having during his life lived up to his means, which were moderate; and having given a good education to his four daughters, all of whom survive him and depend, as we are informed, upon their own exertions for their support.

"Republics are, accroding to proverb, ungrateful. Under a monarchy or despotism, Mr. Goodrich would have received some substantial reward for his decease would have been placed under the tutelage of the State. But with us private munificence and enterprise usurps the ordinary duties of the State, and it remains to be seen whether his countrymen fully appreciate the lasting benefits conferred upon them by the untiring zeal and perseverance of Mr. Goodrich."

From: Presbyterian Historical Almanac Vol. 7 pp. 160-;65 ucslaf1825goodrich_c_00010

1825 CHAUNCEY ENOCH GOODRICH

Rev. Chauncey Enoch Goodrich was born September 19, 1801, in an eastern suburb of Troy. The youngest son and one of the youngest of nine children of Dr. Enoch and Rebecca Gale Goodrich, he was a descendant of William Goodrich, who emigrated from England to this country and settled at Wethersfield, Ct., about 1647. Benjamin, grandson of William, and the second of seventeen children of David, son of William, married Hannah Olmstead, of the same family with Professor Olmstead, of Yale College. Five of the sons of David Goodrich battled for independence in the army of the Revolution, and Enoch, the youngest of the soldiers, and the twelfth son and fouteenth child of his parents, born in 1764, studied medicine in Stanford, Dutchess county, where he found and married his wife. Admitted to practice, he began it in the eastern neighborhood of Troy, but moved to Elbridge, Onondaga county, then a part of Camillus, in 1806. The country was new and sickly, and while the whole family suffered from prevailing diseases, the mother died the first year and the father the second after they went there, Chauncey, not quite six years old, was taken into the family of his uncle (by marriage) Colonel Nathan Beckwith, of Rhinebeck, Dutchess county, and remained there until his fourteenth year. Poisoned by the malaria to which he had been exposed, he received considerate and kind treatment in his consequent weakness. It was concluded that he could never perform the hard work on a farm, and the profession of medicine was chosen for him. At thirteen, the prospect of being able to prepare for this was blasted by the death of his oldest brother, Henry, who took his father's office, near Troy, and had educated himselfalmost alone, and become quite proficient in the languages and sciences. In 1815 he went to a tannery of some of his relations, in the vicinity of Troy, and overtaxed his strength and broke his health. In 1817, he united with the church under the care of Rev. John Younglove, and then set out for the ministry. His time was divided between manual labor, study and school teaching until 1820, when he entered an academy at Elbridge, and then pursued his academic course with his uncle, Rev. Geo. W. Gale, at Adams, and completed it at Lansingburgh. In 1823,he was admitted to the Junior Class in Union College, with nothing but the good Providence of God and the kindness of Christian friends and his own exertions to depend upon for a support. The Lord provided for him, mainly through the Presbytery of Troy, under whose care he had been taken, and a Ladies' Society in Troy, and generous individuals. He allowed as little tax on others as possible, practicing the most rigid economy and usually boarding himself. Now and then he came to straits when a loaf of bread was a prized gift. But crippled in his circumstances, he met with no embarrassment in his studies, and, in 1825, graduated at a high rank and earned a membership in Phi Beta

Kappa. Entering Princeton Seminary in 1825, he was a cotemporary there with students who became eminent in the ministry,--such as Drs. Nicholas Murray, David Hunter Riddle, Erskine Mason, William Swan Plumber, John Holmes Agnew, George W. Bethune, John C. Young, Peter J. Gulick, Missionary to the Sandwich Islands, and George B. Whiting, Missionary to Syria. Graduating in 1828, his heart was set on Foreign Mission service, but the Board deemed it imprudent to send him out by reason of his poor health. Licensed by the Presbytery of Troy, Mr. Goodrich spent nearly two years as assistant in the Oneida Institute, of which Rev. George W. Gale, his uncle,was the founder and principal. In 1830, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Oneida, and set over the church in Salisbury, Herkimer county, his salary being $400, and $100 of this was furnished by the American Home Missionary Society. And such was the average support he received in pastorates aggregating twelve years, at Salisbury, Butternuts and Fly Creek, Winfield and Holland Patent. Infirm health and defective vision and habitual engrossment in thought forbad a manner and appearance that would ingratiate him with the people, or create a just estimate of his ability and worth. Indeed, he lived in an intellectual world, quite apart from the community generally, and there was so little harmony in their mental constitution and exercise that they could not accord and sympathise. He was too far above them, too much in advance of them, to be reached and communed by them. And besides, he was so independent in his opinions and so ingenuous and frank in their expression, that without a recognition of it, or even much care about it, he crossed their lines of thought and contradicted their judgment and prejudices. His vocation was not that of a preacher, but of a thinker and investigator. He was a philosopher in theology, and studied it without deference to human authority, and so it was that though he had sat at the feet of Gamalael, he did not take the teachings of his master on trust, or pay much heed to the doctrines of men. As a natural consequence, his definitions of truth and his theories about it brought him into apparent conflict with established symbols, and on one occasion he was called judicially to account for it, but retained by the Synod in good standing, with the caution, however, not to speculate and speak in ways that might give the impression of heresy. His special aptitude was for science, and had he made this his profession, few could have surpassed him. A casual incident in the Bay of New York, where he was sailing on his first passage towards Princeton, led him to the invention of a lens, which he used for thirty-six years to help his vision. In his different pastoral charges, he lectured on chemistry and other sciences and experimented in the culture of the soil, and when he gave up the

lectured on chemistry and other sciences, and experimented in the culture of the soil; and when he gave up the care of a parish, he betook himself, at Utica, to trial methods of vegetable and fruit raising, and attempted to acclimate the growths and products of milder regions. When the potato disease first threatened that priceless crop (It is curious fact that with all his zeal for the potato, Mr. Goodrich was never able to eat it. He tested the varieties by chemical analysis, taste and cooking qualities.) he addressed himself to its cure; and first getting acquainted, as he supposed, with its pathology, he sought, and as he thought discovered, the efficacious remedy. Procuring a few potatoes from Chili, he commenced experiments for a renewal of the vegetable from the seed, and also sought renewal of the seed from South American tubers. Year after year, for sixteen years, he patiently pursued his experiments, noting on the field, the minutest particulars of each plant, and all the circumstances of soil, cultivation and weather that could affect it, and he spent his winters in transferring his field notes into essays and articles. His communications to agricultural journals and societies and to scientific magazines and institutions, exceed one hundred and thirty, while he gathered a large amount of material on vegetable physiology and pathology which he had not strength to put into form and present to the public. Conscious of his failing powers, and apprised of the near approach of death, he prepared two papers on the culture and disease of the potato, and so saved to the country and the world his valuable experiments and observations on them. He also put two hundred varieties of potatoes he had produced in the hands of three gentlemen for testing and selection, and he perfected several varieties which are universally known as good keeping. The Garnet Chili was estimated more than twelve years ago, to have saved $2,000,000, and had he chosen to have made money out of it, he might have accumulated wealth. His motive, however, was philanthropic and not mercenary. His sales did not cover his expenses, and, supplemented by premiums from the State Agricultural Society, they left him, as a careful examination of his accounts showed, a balance of $50. While no mercenary motive actuated Mr. Goodrich in his efforts to save the most valuable of esculents, neither was it the mere love of science. This undoubtedly influenced him, but paramount to it was his love of man, and through him, his love of God. Philanthropy and religion inspired and incited him.

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And neither was he engrossed with his investigations into the nature of the disease that was destroying so useful a vegetable, and of the means of curing it or averting it. Divine truth and the church of the living God, interested and engaged him. His conversation was always fresh about them, and he kept up with their development and progress. Clergymen were his companions, and Chrsitian assemblies his resort, and he wrote a work on pastoral theology with the thought of submitting it to the press. He preached regularly also, holding the chaplaincy of the Lunatic Asylum for nineteen years and habitually and fully meeting its requisitions upon him. Principle was his law in every sphere, and the rigidness with which he carried it out concealed his kindness and geniality, and made the impression of severity. He never left home except on secular or professional business, indulged in no recreations and amusements, and was stern in maintaining and exacting what he considered the proprieties and separateness from the world of the real Christian life.

In 1830, Mr. Goodrich was married to Margaret, daughter of William G. Tracy, Esq., of Whitesboro, a superior woman and Christian, the best and most loved of mothers and a devoted wife. She was sparedto him until a short time before his death; and of their four children, all daughters, two only are now living.

Life with him was, for many years, a struggle for life, and greatly worn toward the last, he seemed too frail to exist. But his mind never paused. Exercised on different themes, he conversed about them with almost unabated vivacity, and was sure to introduce them at the calls of intelligent visitors. His "lips dispensed knowledge" in the family and in the circles of friends. Seldom playful, and never humorous, he was always and everywhere instructive. The chamber of death made little change in his spirit and demeanor. He maintained, of course, his habitual serbousness, and showed no unusual agitation. Piety was with him was a deep seated conviction and experience, and kept him in perfect peace when dying.

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